THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The matter has been taken up with the Editor who has clarified that the map is only indicative. This is indicated in the map itself under the caption "boundary representations are not necessarily authoritative".

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

(d) The subject of inaccurate depiction of India's boundaries is constantly monitored by Government and corrective action is initiated whenever distortions are noticed.

Amount spent on maintenance of Security/ Para-Military Forces in Assam

3035. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some amount has been spent on maintenance of security/para-military forces in Assam during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether the Central Government make any contribution of amount towards the maintenance of forces;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the amount outstanding to be paid by Assam Government during the last five years;

(e) whether the Central Government while releasing the amount on maintenance of security/para-military forces made deductions of same against Central Grants/Grants for development sanctioned for the State; and

(f) if so, the amount released by such adjustments during the last five years, separately?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected.

Openness in Official Secrets Act, 1923

3036. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether openness is "discretionary" under the regime of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 in India and it is lagging behind several countries in the field of right to information;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken to bring transparency in its affairs; and

(c) whether in the opinion of the Government the experience of other countries and the legislations enacted by them could serve as a model for India?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) The Official Secrets Act, 1923 was enacted for protection of official secrets in our country. The Act is intended to take care of spying and espionate activities and disclosure of other secret information considered prejudicial to the interest of the State and safety and sovereignty of the country. However, in order to achieve openness and transparency in Government functioning, instructions have been issued to all the Central Ministries/Departments for taking effective steps towards this objective which includes, inter-alia, further details being furnished in replies to Parliament Questions, revamping of public relations cells in Ministries/Departments which deal with public enquiries/complaints, provisions of more information in annual reports, in institution of effective mechanism for replying to communications received from the public etc. No statute relating to Right to information, as prevalent in some other countries, has yet been enacted in this country. As the matter is both complex and sensitive, the issues involved require careful and thorough analysis which is being done.

Controlling the left extremists violence in Andhra Pradesh

3037. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance proposed to be extended for controlling the left extremists violence in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken to contain such activities in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, etc. besides Andhra Pradesh?